

RC11

To: Members of the Board of Game
From: Tod Osier, Newtown, CT
RE: Proposal 80

Dear Members of the Board of Game,

I am a nonresident hunter of Caribou in Unit 26B and am writing to address Proposal 80 slated for the March Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting of the Board of Game. I am writing to oppose proposal 80.

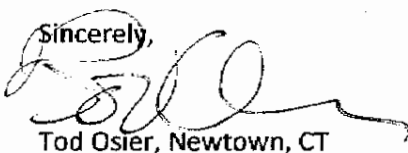
First I'd like to offer thanks to the Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game staff for their shrewdness in navigating the Caribou management issues in 26B after the decline of the CAH in 2017. Having the continued ability to hunt this iconic herd on our public lands is greatly appreciated.

I hunted in unit 26B in 2013 with my wife and son and plan to do so again with them this year. We have flights planned with an Alaskan-owned flight service that were made nearly a year in advance. My opposition to the Registration hunt is that nonresidents are put in a particularly difficult spot if the hunt closes before or during their trip. I don't want to trivialize the effect of closures of Registration hunts on AK residents, but the effect on a non-resident travelling for a once or twice in a lifetime hunt is substantial. Unpredictability in closure of Registration hunts makes planning difficult and would have a dramatic impact on the nonresident hunter who must travel to and within the state and cannot have a reasonable fallback plan available in the short time-window to travel and hunt.

As it stands, there is harvestable surplus available annually. As the population of the CAH recovers, it is likely that AK resident interest in the herd will also rebound to previous levels, resulting in a relative decrease in nonresident take, similar to the years prior to 2017.

I ask that the BOG consider options other than a registration hunt tied to an allocation quota if they decide that further limiting NR hunters of Caribou in 26B will result in the maximum benefit for the people of Alaska.

Further, I appeal to the Board that they use compassion in implementing any change for 2020 so that those with financial commitments minimally affected.

Sincerely,

Tod Osier, Newtown, CT